

PORTER J. GOSS, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
BILL McCOLLUM, FLORIDA
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DELAWARE
SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT, NEW YORK
CHARLES F. BASS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JIM GIBBONS, NEVADA
RAY LAHOOD, ILLINOIS
HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO

JULIAN C. DIXON, CALIFORNIA
NANCY PELOSI, CALIFORNIA
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
NORMAN SISISKY, VIRGINIA
GARY A. CONDIT, CALIFORNIA
TIM ROEMER, INDIANA
ALCEE L. HASTINGS, FLORIDA

J. DENNIS HASTERT, ILLINOIS, EX OFFICIO
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, MISSOURI, EX OFFICIO

Room H-405, U.S. Capitol
(202) 225-4121

TIMOTHY R. SAMPLE, STAFF DIRECTOR
PATRICK B. MURRAY, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL W. SHEEHY, DEMOCRATIC COUNSEL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6415

Statement of CHAIRMAN PORTER J. GOSS Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Before the Committee on House Administration

COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUEST

March 1, 2001

Chairman Ney, thank you for providing me with this opportunity to explain and describe the budget request submitted to the Committee on House Administration by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 107th Congress.

We had anticipated a significant increased workload for the Committee in this Congress because of recent events that require additional oversight and because within the last three months we have received approximately 10 different reports from various commissions, all of which have some effect on the Intelligence Community and require the Committee's attention. These factors alone would have forced us to consider some increases in our budget request.

The budget that is before you, however, reflects a significant change in funding levels as a result of some expanded responsibilities that the Speaker has directed. Let me briefly describe these added responsibilities and then their ramifications. First, the Speaker has increased the Committee Membership by 25 percent (from 16 to 20), and 45 percent of the Republican Membership are new Members to the Committee. Second, the Speaker has asked that we take a more expanded view of the ramifications of the growing complexity of intelligence capabilities (due to the explosion of technology and telecommunications) and intelligence policies on the formulation of national security policies and their implementation. Over the last few years, there has been an increasing disconnect between having the

necessary intelligence capabilities to conduct informed decisionmaking in policy formulation, the capabilities to implement such policies, and, as importantly, the capability to know and understand the effect of those policies and whether they may need to be adjusted. Although the Intelligence Community does not make policy, it certainly contributes throughout the process. Not having the necessary intelligence capabilities can result in a breakdown of our national security process.

The third change is that the Speaker has decided that there needs to be a very focused look at the issue of terrorism, not only in terms of the threat, but also in terms of our nation's response and preparedness. To do this, he has directed that the Committee create a Speaker's working group within the Committee Membership to address these issues. Although there were several ways to approach this issue, the Speaker chose this alternative in that a great deal of the information that must be reviewed is classified, the structure of the membership of the Committee is such that there is representation from all of the major committees that have oversight jurisdiction in these areas, and that, by leveraging some of the work already being done by the Committee, there would be considerably less cost associated with this effort than if a separate select committee was established. It is anticipated that this working group would report its results to the Speaker by the end of the 107th Congress.

As a result of these three changes, our request reflects the additional resource requirements that are needed. There are a total of 13 additional staff positions (a 50 % increase) requested, with the necessary salary structure to hire the individuals with the right expertise and background to do the work. Likewise, there are the necessary increases in other funding areas, such as IT systems that are required along with the normal upgrades that we must make to our existing systems. Please keep in mind that, because of how we must operate from a security perspective, we cannot share staff with other committees or with any personal offices (including those of our own Members). I would also note that, because of the number of new Members on the Committee, additional work must be accomplished by staff in order to get these new Members "up to speed" in the arcane area of intelligence. Additionally, because of the types of highly classified information that we deal with, our IT infrastructure consists of both separate classified and unclassified networks that must adhere to the security standards established by the Director of Central Intelligence. These requirements are not a matter of choice: they are a necessity.

Before closing, let me briefly comment on the non-partisan nature of our Committee. Because our oversight responsibilities deal with activities that are at the root of our national security, we must work closely together and, to the greatest extent possible, put partisan politics on the shelf. With the good working relationship that I have with our Ranking Democrat, Ms. Pelosi, we have continued in this tradition. Although there are staff members that are considered "minority," to me the Committee has just one staff. As part of our cooperation, in the 106th Congress, the Minority controlled one-third of the personnel compensation budget. With the addition of the 13 requested positions, the minority will continue to control one-third of the personnel budget and minority staff positions will increase. It has been, and continues to be a good working relationship, and I credit Ms. Pelosi and the Democratic Counsel, Mr. Mike Sheehy, for their determination in making this process work.

In sum, this budget is a solid and responsible request, given the circumstances that we are in. I believe that the Speaker has made some wise decisions in his direction to us, and, with the additional resources requested, we will be able to address his concerns. The budget request is for what we need to do the job professionally. The tasks are of critical importance to our nation, as the money spent on intelligence programs safeguard our nation's security and the lives of American citizens at home and abroad.

I urge that you look favorably upon this request.